Alternative Conservation System

Corn grown on highly erodible land with less than very steep and/or long slopes [K X LS<0.8].

DEFINITION: An Alternative Conservation System (ACS) is a practice or combination of practices that substantially reduces soil erosion on highly erodible land.

GUIDELINE: ACS's may only be developed when the installation and use of practices and management of a Basic Conservation System are impractical, not socially acceptable, or not cost efficient. (For example, conservation tillage equipment may not be available, switching from corn silage to haylage may not be feasible, or terraces may be too expensive). The justification for the ACS must be documented in the conservation assistance notes (CPA-6 form, etc.).

SOIL AND SITE CONDITIONS: For highly erodible land (HEL) as defined by the Food Security Act of 1985, where the product of the soil erodibility factor (K) and the length and steepness of slope factor (LS) is less than 0.8; [K X LS<0.8].

REQUIREMENT: The ACS shall include either the following minimum treatment (includes a, b, and c below) or any other conservation system that achieves the same or higher treatment of sheet, rill, and ephemeral gully erosion:

a. conservation cropping sequence with two years of silage corn rotated with four years of sod; and

b. cover and green manure (Standard and Specifications 340) grown for winter and spring cover on the corn area; and

c. ephemeral gully erosion treated with appropriate practices.

During the preparation of alternatives, the landowner will be given sound alternatives that include practices needed to upgrade an ACS to a basic conservation system. The alternatives should give land users a chance to consider the most cost-effective treatment that meets their objectives and also complies with FSA.

Practices useful alone or in various combinations, to reduce sheet, rill, wind, and ephemeral gully erosion are shown under the basic conservation system.

Alternative Conservation System

Corn grown on highly erodible land with very steep and/or long slopes [K X LS≥0.8].

DEFINITION: An Alternative Conservation System (ACS) is a practice or combination of practices that substantially reduces soil erosion on highly erodible land.

GUIDELINE: ACS may only be developed when the installation and use of practices and management of a Basic Conservation System are impractical, not socially acceptable, or not cost efficient. (For example, conservation tillage equipment may not be available, switching from corn silage to haylage may not be feasible, or terraces may be too expensive). The justification for the ACS must be documented in the conservation assistance notes (CPA-6 form, etc.).

SOIL AND SITE CONDITIONS: For highly erodible land (HEL) as defined by the Food Security Act of 1985, where the product of the soil erodibility factor (K) and the length and steepness of slope factor (LS) is greater than or equal to 0.8; [K X LS≥0.8].

REQUIREMENT: The ACS shall include either the following minimum treatment (includes a, b and c below) or any other conservation system that achieves the same or higher treatment of sheet, rill, and ephemeral gully erosion:

a. contour stripcropping (Standard and Specifications 585) installed; and

b. cover and green manure (Standard and Specifications 340) grown for winter and spring cover on the commodity crop area; and

c. ephemeral gully erosion treated with appropriate practices.

During the preparation of alternatives, the landowner will be given sound alternatives that include practices needed to upgrade an ACS to a basic conservation system. The alternatives should give land users a chance to consider the most cost-effective treatment that meets their objectives and also complies with FSA.

Practices useful alone or in various combinations, to reduce sheet, rill, wind, and ephemeral gully erosion are shown under the basic conservation system.

Alternative Conservation System

Corn grown on highly erodible land with less than very steep and/or long slopes [K X LS<0.8].

DEFINITION: An Alternative Conservation System (ACS) is a practice or combination of practices that substantially reduces soil erosion on highly erodible land.

GUIDELINE: ACS's may only be developed when the installation and use of practices and management of a Basic Conservation System are impractical, not socially acceptable, or not cost efficient. For example, conservation tillage equipment may not be available, switching from corn silage to haylage may not be feasible, or terraces may be too expensive. The justification for the ACS must be documented in the conservation assistance notes (CPA-6 form, etc.).

SOIL AND SITE CONDITIONS: For highly erodible land (HEL) as defined by the Food Security Act of 1985, where the product steepness of slope factor (LS) is less than 0.8; [K X LS<0.8].

REQUIRMENT: The ACS shall include either the following minimum treatment (includes a, b, and c below) or any other conservation system that achieves the same or higher treatment of sheet, rill, and ephemeral gully erosion:

a. conservation cropping sequence with a maximum of two years of silage corn rotated with a minimum of two years of sod; and

b. cover and green manure (Standard and Specifications 340) grown for winter and spring cover on the corn area; and

c. ephemeral gully erosion treated with appropriate practices.

During the preparation of alternatives, the landowner will be given sound alternatives that include practices needed to upgrade an ACS to a basic conservation system. The alternatives should give land users a chance to consider the most cost-effective treatment that meets their objectives and also complies with FSA.

Practices useful alone or in various combinations, to reduce sheet, rill, wind, and ephemeral gully erosion are shown under the basic conservation system.

Alternative Conservation System
(Vegetables including sweet corn grown in New Hampshire)

For use on highly erodible land (HEL) as defined by the Food Security Act (FSA) of 1985.

DEFINITION: An Alternative Conservation System (ACS) is a practice or combination of practices that substantially reduces soil erosion on highly erodible land.

Guidelines for ACS's:

1. ACS's may only be developed when the installation and use of practices and management of a Basic Conservation System are impractical, not socially acceptable, or not cost efficient. For example, conservation tillage equipment may not be available, switching from vegetables to haylage may not be feasible, or terraces may be too expensive. The justification for the ACS must be documented in the conservation assistance notes (CPA-6 form, etc.).

2. An ACS shall include either the following minimum treatment (includes a, b, and c below) or any other conservation system that achieves the same or higher treatment of sheet, rill and ephemeral gully erosion:

    a. contour farming (Standard and Specification 330) installed; and

    b. cover and green manure (Standard and Specification 340) grown for fall, winter and spring cover on the commodity crop area; and

    c. ephemeral gully erosion treated with appropriate practices.

During the preparation of alternatives, the landowner will be given sound alternatives that include practices needed to upgrade an ACS to the basic conservation system. The alternatives should give land users a chance to consider the most cost-effective treatment that meets their objectives and also complies with FSA.

Practices useful, alone or in various combinations, to reduce sheet, rill, wind, and ephemeral gully erosion are shown under the basic conservation system.